

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

August 1, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE VICE PRESIDENT
FROM: SECRETARY KISSINGER *BS for*
SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Israeli Foreign
Minister Yigal Allon

Yigal Allon (pronounced ah-LAWN) is Deputy Prime Minister, and thus in a sense your counterpart, as well as Minister for Foreign Affairs. He is a good friend of the United States and has always had a reputation for being less rigid than many of the older generation of Israelis on how to deal with Israel's Arab neighbors.

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Allon is visiting the United States for about a week, for consultations with me and possibly the President on possible next steps in the negotiations with the Arabs. He also met yesterday with Secretary Schlesinger to discuss Israel's long-term military equipment needs, and he will meet with Secretary Simon to discuss economic assistance.

Our objective in our discussions with Allon has been to reassure him that we are proceeding with Israel in the coming phases of Middle East diplomacy. That is, the United States will make no moves, procedural or substantive, that have not been arrived at in the closest consultation and harmony with Israel.

Secondly, we want to assure the Israelis that we understand their pressing needs for military and economic assistance and we will provide this assistance to the best of our ability. The strongest reassurance we can give is not merely verbal reassurance, but the fact that a strong Israel is in our interest -- because we know the Arabs have turned to us only because they have despaired of gaining their objectives by military means.

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Our third objective, however, is to make clear to our Israeli friends that the present favorable situation -- with the United States more or less in charge of the diplomacy -- can only be sustained if there is the appearance, and indeed the reality, of continuing movement toward a settlement. Therefore we and the Israelis must do some hard thinking this summer on next steps in the negotiation. We must find answers, together, to such questions as: Which Arab country do we proceed with next -- Egypt or Jordan? What specific steps are possible with Egypt, or with Jordan?

Our relationship with Israel now is particularly warm, in the wake of the President's recent visit and the two successful disengagement agreements. There are no significant disagreements between us, and I believe we have their confidence as we approach the next phase together.

Talking Points:

- Secretary Kissinger tells me your talks have been going well and there are no real disagreements. This is extremely encouraging. The American people are very proud of the progress that has occurred toward a settlement and hope it can continue.
- President Nixon has told me many times of his firm belief that a strong, secure Israel is essential to American interests and indeed to America's Middle East strategy. All Americans support this.
- I have long been a friend of Israel and a supporter of aid to Israel in the Congress.
- I have never been to the Middle East, but I have heard great things about your country and hope to visit some time.

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